Defense-State Liaison Office

"USA 4 Military Families" Initiative

Sponsored by The Office of the Secretary of Defense, Military Community & Family Policy (OSD/MC&FP)

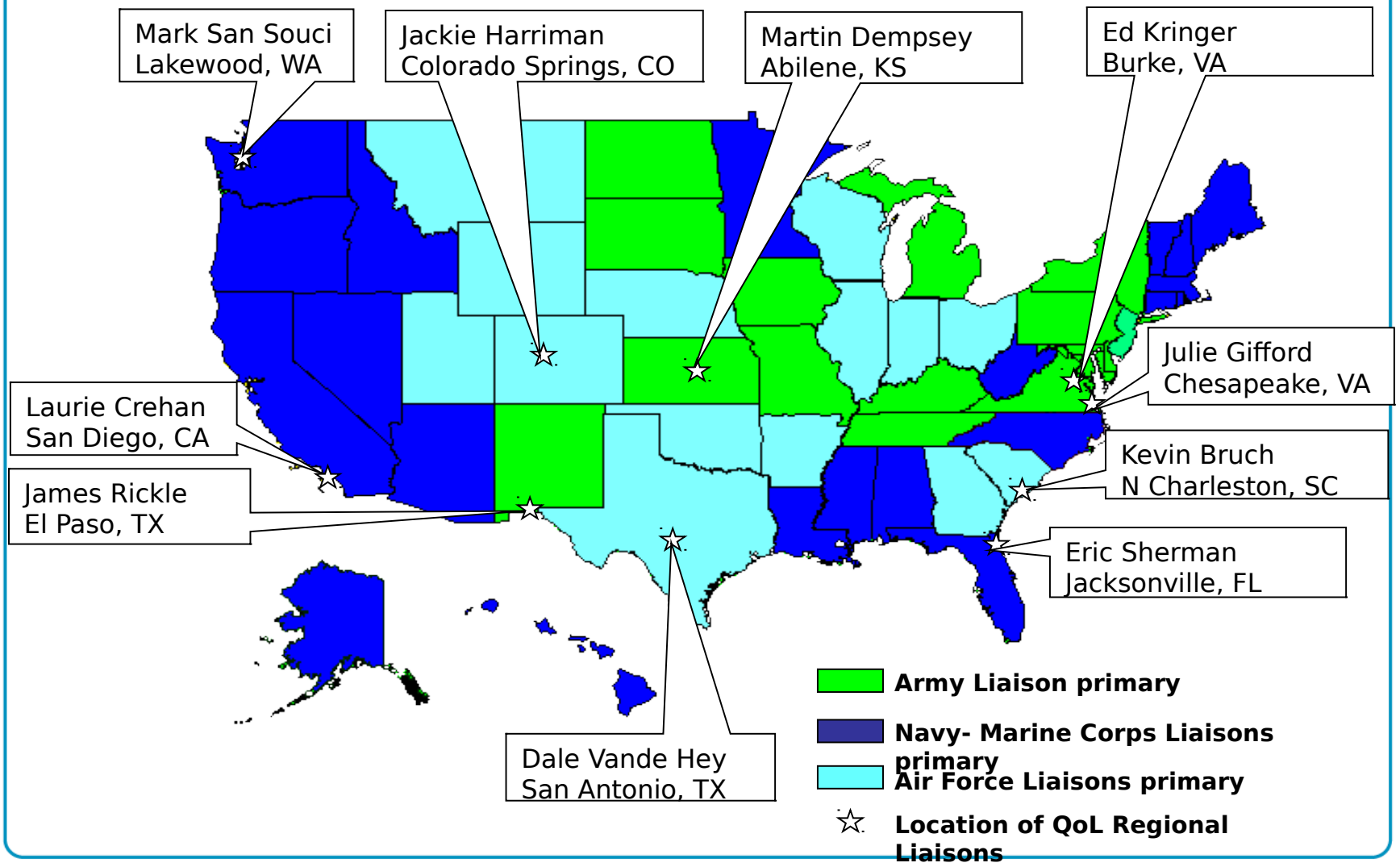
Overview

- DoD-State Liaison Office (DSLO)
- Ten Key Issues: Issues & Outcomes
- What Does This Mean for Your Families, and Your State?

Defense-State Liaison Office

- Objective: Engage and educate state policymakers and other state leaders, not-for-profit associations, and businesses on the needs of Military members and their families.
- Current focus:
  - Concentrate effort on 10 “Key Issues”
  - Provide DoD leadership an opportunity to participate in state-level debates on the key issues
- Regional Liaison roles:
  - “ERA” with state policy makers
  - Raise awareness of leadership with State legislative process
  - Network with Community Groups

Regional Liaisons



Regional Liaisons

Check

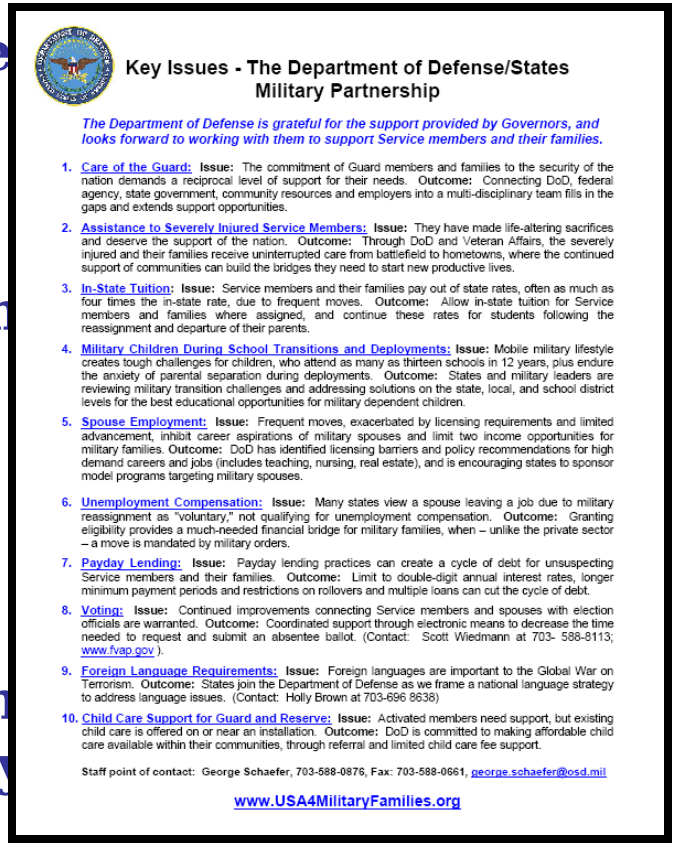
USA4MilitaryFamilies.org

for contact information for your

State Liaison

Ten Key Issues

- **Care of the Guard and Reserve**
- **Assistance to Severely Injured Members**
- **In-State Tuition**
- **Military School Children Durin**
- **Transition and Deployment**
- **Spouse Employment**
- **Unemployment Compensation**
- **Predatory Lending**
- **Voting**
- **Foreign Language Requiremen**
- **Accessible Support for Militar**



Key Issues - The Department of Defense/States Military Partnership

The Department of Defense is grateful for the support provided by Governors, and looks forward to working with them to support Service members and their families.

1. Care of the Guard: **Issue:** The commitment of Guard members and families to the security of the nation demands a reciprocal level of support for their needs. **Outcome:** Connecting DoD, federal agency, state government, community resources and employers into a multi-disciplinary team fills in the gaps and extends support opportunities.
2. Assistance to Severely Injured Service Members: **Issue:** They have made life-altering sacrifices and deserve the support of the nation. **Outcome:** Through DoD and Veteran Affairs, the severely injured and their families receive uninterrupted care from battlefield to hometowns, where the continued support of communities can build the bridges they need to start new productive lives.
3. In-State Tuition: **Issue:** Service members and their families pay out of state rates, often as much as four times the in-state rate, due to frequent moves. **Outcome:** Allow in-state tuition for Service members and families where assigned, and continue these rates for students following the reassignment and departure of their parents.
4. Military Children During School Transitions and Deployments: **Issue:** Mobile military lifestyle creates tough challenges for children, who attend as many as thirteen schools in 12 years, plus endure the anxiety of parental separation during deployments. **Outcome:** States and military leaders are reviewing military transition challenges and addressing solutions on the state, local, and school district levels for the best educational opportunities for military dependent children.
5. Spouse Employment: **Issue:** Frequent moves, exacerbated by licensing requirements and limited advancement, inhibit career aspirations of military spouses and limit two income opportunities for military families. **Outcome:** DoD has identified licensing barriers and policy recommendations for high demand careers and jobs (includes teaching, nursing, real estate), and is encouraging states to sponsor model programs targeting military spouses.
6. Unemployment Compensation: **Issue:** Many states view a spouse leaving a job due to military reassignment as "voluntary," not qualifying for unemployment compensation. **Outcome:** Granting eligibility provides a much-needed financial bridge for military families, when – unlike the private sector – a move is mandated by military orders.
7. Payday Lending: **Issue:** Payday lending practices can create a cycle of debt for unsuspecting Service members and their families. **Outcome:** Limit to double-digit annual interest rates, longer minimum payment periods and restrictions on rollovers and multiple loans can cut the cycle of debt.
8. Voting: **Issue:** Continued improvements connecting Service members and spouses with election officials are warranted. **Outcome:** Coordinated support through electronic means to decrease the time needed to request and submit an absentee ballot. (Contact: Scott Wiedmann at 703- 588-8113; www.fvap.gov).
9. Foreign Language Requirements: **Issue:** Foreign languages are important to the Global War on Terrorism. **Outcome:** States join the Department of Defense as we frame a national language strategy to address language issues. (Contact: Holly Brown at 703-696 8638)
10. Child Care Support for Guard and Reserve: **Issue:** Activated members need support, but existing child care is offered on or near an installation. **Outcome:** DoD is committed to making affordable child care available within their communities, through referral and limited child care fee support.

Staff point of contact: George Schaefer, 703-588-0876, Fax: 703-588-0661, george.schaefer@osd.mil

www.USA4MilitaryFamilies.org

Care of the Guard and Reserve

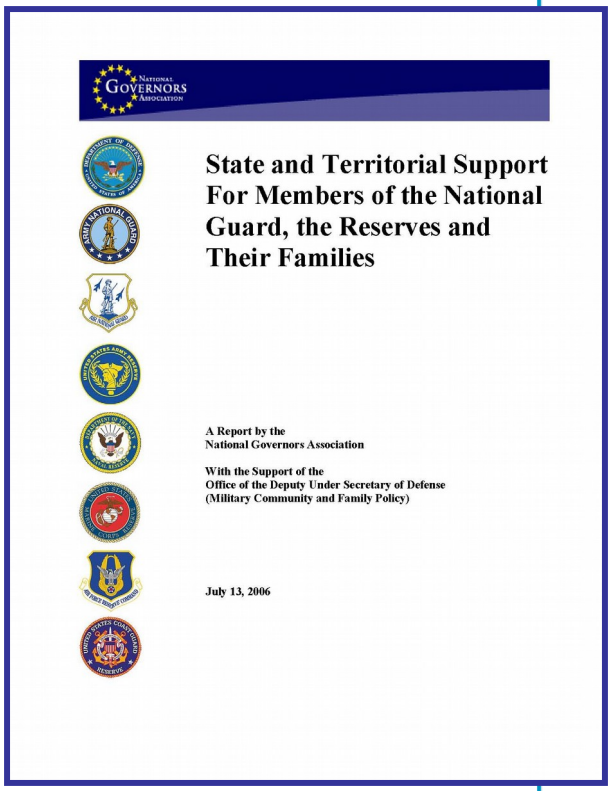
Issue: The commitment of members and families to the security of the nation necessitates reciprocal support of by states/agencies.

Measurement tool:

State and Territorial Support For Members of the National Guard, the Reserves and Their Families

(partnership survey, National Governors Association)

Progress: States now offer a total of 912 specific supporting points for Guard and Reserve, an increase of 390 since 2004, adding 157 in 2007


National Governors Association
State and Territorial Support For Members of the National Guard, the Reserves and Their Families
A Report by the National Governors Association
With the Support of the Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Military Community and Family Policy)
July 13, 2006

Assistance to Severely Injured Service Members

Issue: Life-altering sacrifices = uninterrupted care!

Criteria: Participation in programs like "Heroes to Hometowns"

Outcome:

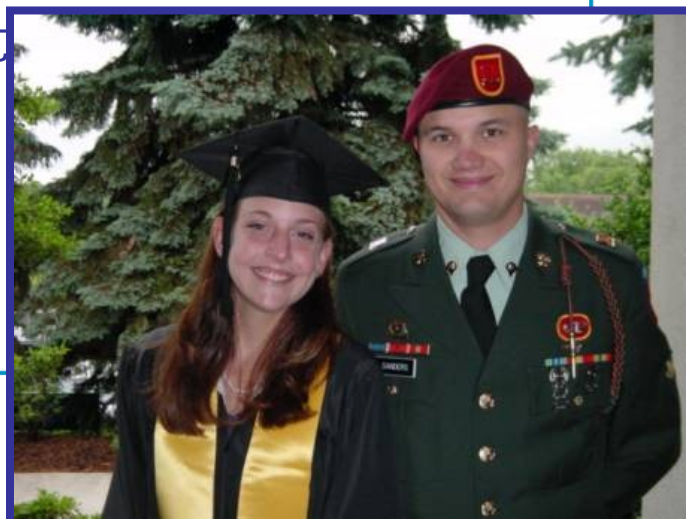
- Partnerships like NG JTF, American Legion Adjutants, and State VA Directors
- 33 states report successful collaborations

In-State Tuition Benefits

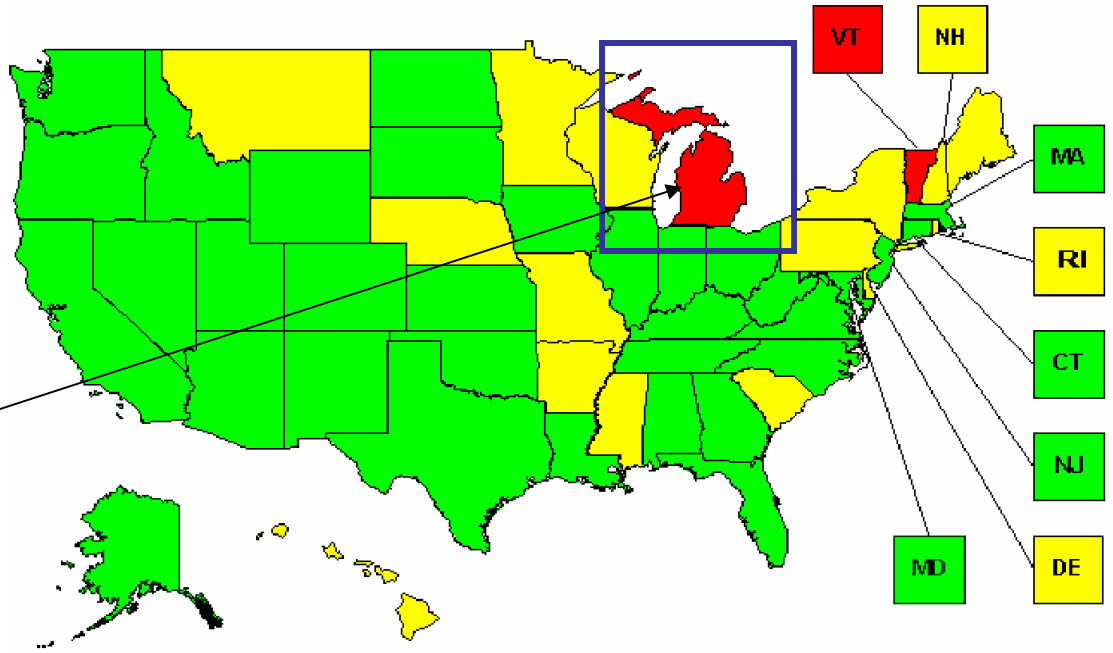
Issue: Frequent moves = out of states rates!

Criteria: Allow in-state tuition for Service members and families where assigned, ***and*** continue those rates for students following the reassignment and departure of the military sponsor.

Progress: **35** states now meet this criteria, (*up from **9** three years ago*) and only one stat (VT) still offers no accommodation at all for military members and their families.



In-State Tuition for Military Dependents



Michigan is now green

- **Green**: Meets all three desired outcomes.
- **Yellow**: Meets the first two desired outcomes, but is missing the third.
- **Red**: Meets none or only one of the desired outcomes.

Desired Outcomes:

1) Eligible in state of residence only.
2) Eligible in state of assignment.
3) Allows for continuity of state eligibility once established.

Military School Children in Transition

Issue: Frequent moves = many schools! Also, anxiety of deployment….

Criteria: States participate in an interstate compact providing a uniform policy, at the state and local level, to resolve challenges for military children.

Compact:

- Developed in conjunction with Council of State Governments with assistance of 18 stakeholder agencies
- Compact has the force of law when accepted by state
- Becomes active when accepted by 10 states – *which happened this month!*

Interstate Compact Legislative Status

- Enacted into law: AZ, CO, CT, KS, KY, MI, MO, OK, DE, FL
- Introduced: IL, LA, NC, NJ, PA
- Not likely to pass: CA
- Not yet active: MA, NY
- Enacted Taskforce legislation: WA, MD
- Carry-over to 2009: VA
- Not successful: AL, GA, HI, MS, NH, SD

Spouse Employment

Issue: Frequent moves = difficult licensing, inhibits careers, limits much needed income

Criteria: States accommodate spouses through policy adjustments, including compacts and national standards for teachers, nurses, real estate agents, etc.

Outcome:

- In 2007, 8 states authorize ABCTE- portable teacher certification
- 50 States assist spouses to certification as teachers in “Spouses-to-Teachers” program
- 22 States adopted the Nurse Licensure Compact, or made similar provisions, for transferring nurse spouses

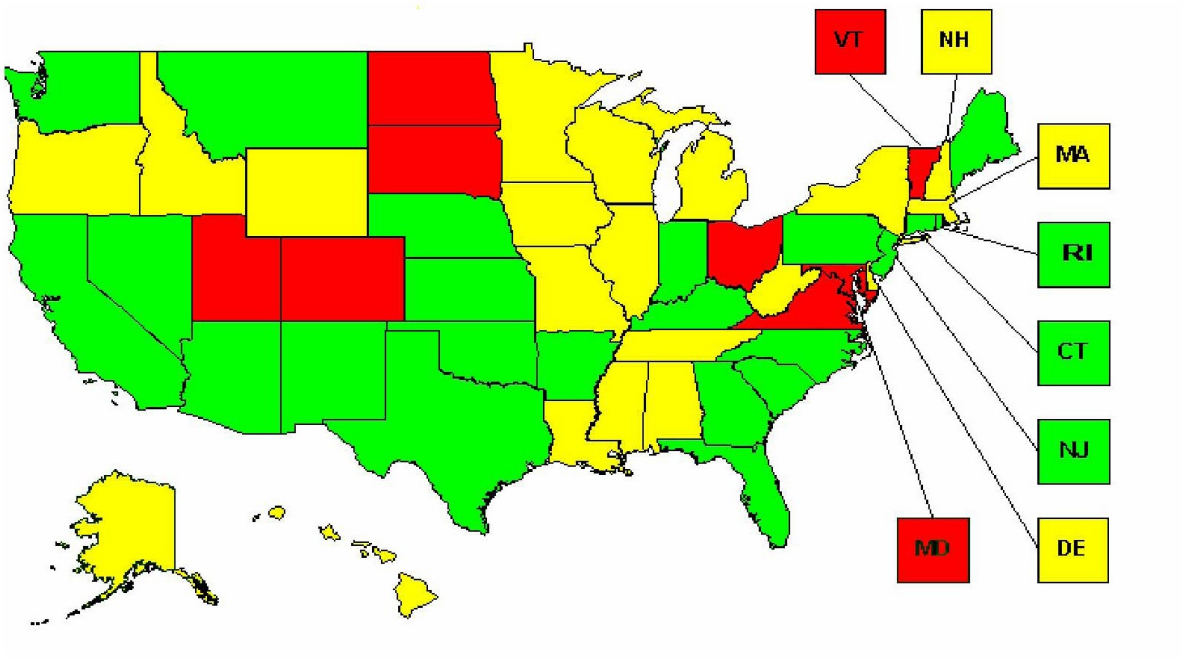
Unemployment Compensation

Issue: Spouses who leave a job due to military reassignment do not qualify for UC in many states

Criteria: States grant eligibility for much needed finances when job resignation based on mandated military moves

Outcome: 22 States now grant benefit, double the amount since 2004

Unemployment Compensation for Military Spouses



Green: States provide eligibility to trailing military spouses.

Yellow: States evaluate eligibility on a case by case basis, and/or require waiting period.

Red: States make trailing military spouses ineligible

Predatory Lending

Issue: Some lending practices create cycle of debt for unsuspecting Service members and families

Criteria: States play essential role in enforcing federal and state protections

- New federal Anti-Predatory Law in effect 1 October 2007
- Over half states agreed to enforce when released Sep 2007

Voting

Issue: Citizens need assurance their vote can be successfully cast and counted while serving/deployed overseas

Criteria: States authorize flexible processes for absentee voters recommended by the Federal Voting Assistance Office (www.fvap.gov)

Outcome: 14 states comply with at least 7 of the nine state issues addressed, 30 states comply with 4 – 6 of the nine issues, and 11 states do not comply with more than 3.

Foreign Language Requirements

Issue: Foreign languages are important to national security and economic competitiveness.

Criteria: States develop a foreign language plans that optimizes resources from the business, education and community sectors

Outcome: Three states have established prototype plans which will be offered to states as a template to develop state-specific plans

Accessible Support for Military Families

Issue: Stressed military families and support agencies do not always connect!

Criteria: States mobilize both military and civilian resources through an integrated team to assist families

Progress: 30 States participate in Inter-Service Family Assistance Committees of one sort or another - increase coordination with high-level state agencies/officials

USA4MilitaryFamilies

Department of Defense and States, Partnering to Support Military Families

Search

State Policymakers

- Home
- Key Issues
- Governors' Best Practices
- News Articles
- FAQs
- Contact Us
- Tools For Your Website

Contact the Regional Liason for Your State »

Military Family of the Month »

Information for Families »

Visit NMFA to Meet the Latest Military Family of the Month

The USA4 Military Families initiative seeks to engage and educate state policymakers, not-for-profit associations, concerned business interests, and other state leaders about the needs of Military members and their families, particularly as those needs intersect with state public policy. Through state/military partnerships, DoD seeks to develop relationships with states, work with them to remove unnecessary barriers, and significantly improve the quality of life for military families.

Key Issues »

State Stories

Tax Credits For Helping Arizona's Troops and Families
By Arizona Department of Veterans' Services
(Posted on Wednesday, January 16, 2008)

The Arizona Department of Veterans' Services (AZDVS) announces that beginning this year, every person who files an Arizona State income tax return has the opportunity to receive a tax credit for contributing to the Military Family Relief Fund.

Admiral Encourages Lawmakers to Enact Educational Compact for Military Children
By Navy.mil
(Posted on Thursday, December 13, 2007)

The admiral who commands all naval installations in the southwestern United States

Thoughts/Questions?